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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-fourth session
Agenda item 18

PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

Written statement submitted by the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status (category II)

The Secretary-General has received the following communication, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[5 August 1992]

Protection of minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. B'nai B'rith, while maintaining a neutral political stance with regard to the strife among the republics of what was formerly Yugoslavia, is none the less appalled by reports emanating from the Serbian-controlled areas of Bosnia, and has called for immediate intervention to save lives.

2. "While adhering to our strict political neutrality," said B'nai B'rith International President Kent E. Schiner, "there can be no moral neutrality, and therefore there can be no silence.

3. "The shocking accounts of abuse and torture have now reportedly been confirmed by the United States Government. The scenarios of systematic executions of men, women, and children; railroad boxcars packed with deportees; incarceration in concentration camps; a Serbian policy of 'ethnic cleansing'; and reprisals conducted by Croats and Muslims - all sound chillingly familiar.

4. "B'nai B'rith urgently calls on the international community - the United States, Europe, and the United Nations - to take action without delay - including military intercession - to stop the carnage. We hope and pray that history will not repeat itself, and that it will not be too late to rescue the potentially thousands of innocent victims."